



**STATE
SENATOR**
Wayne Kuipers
30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



Senate Votes to Protect Michigan's Forests

Bipartisan legislation that would help the state's timber industry recently won passage in the Michigan Senate. The bills would promote better management of private and state forests and would create tax exemptions for private landowners who own a majority of the state's forestland.

In addition, Michigan's timber prices have risen to be among the highest in the nation because of supply shortages and increased demand. However, the high prices threaten the industry in Michigan and the many jobs it provides. Specifically, the industry employs about 200,000 people and contributes \$12 billion in economic activity. Michigan's timberland acreage is the nation's fifth largest with 19 million acres.

Senate Approves Apprentice Hunting License

The Senate recently approved legislation to create a new hunting license in Michigan that would allow individuals to experience the sport while under the supervision of a fully-licensed, experienced hunter.

Under Senate Bill (SB) 1105, a minor child (under 17) could apply for an apprentice hunting license starting at the legal hunting age (10), as long as he or she had not previously held a standard hunter's license. An individual hunting with an apprentice hunting license would not need a hunter's safety course, but must be accompanied by a licensed adult. An individual could hunt with an apprentice hunting license for two years but after that, would need to apply for a standard license and pass a hunting safety course before going into the woods.

Memorial Day Service Held in Michigan Senate

The 12th annual Memorial Day Service was held in the Michigan Senate chambers on May 25 to honor Michigan soldiers who lost their lives while serving their country. Senators read aloud the names of soldiers from their districts who have died in the past 12 months. Families who have lost loved ones were also in the gallery and were recognized by the Senate. The special service included a speech by Brigadier General Richard A. Stone, U.S. Army Reserve, and featured the VFW Honor Guard Brighton Post 4357 and the Kalamazoo Pipe Band.

In addition, Brittin Radcliffe, a music teacher at Latson Road Elementary School, opened the service by singing the national anthem, and Dale Sprosty, formerly of the First Army Headquarters Band New York, now retired, played taps.

The annual Memorial Day Service began 12 years ago at the initiative of U.S. Congressman Mike Rogers, who was then a state senator.